

Pilot Off-Leash Hours Dog Program

Parks & Recreation Commission – October 16, 2019
Manny Hernandez – Municipal Services Director



Did You Know...

Neighboring communities have as many as 6 dog parks

There are approximately 3,800 dogs in Los Altos

There are 30,500 residents in Los Altos

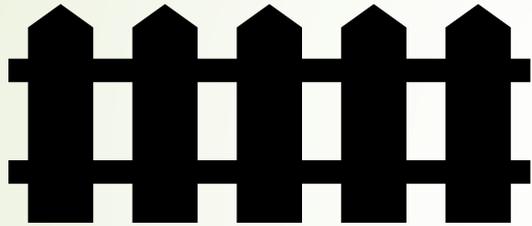
There are 10,700 households in Los Altos (2010 Census)

Almost 40% of households have dogs



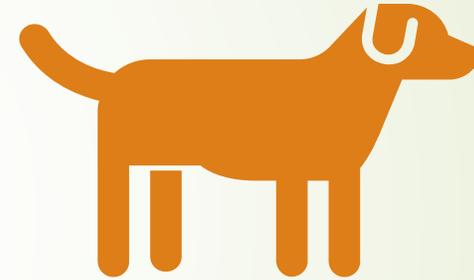


Dog Activity Types:



Fenced-In Dog Park

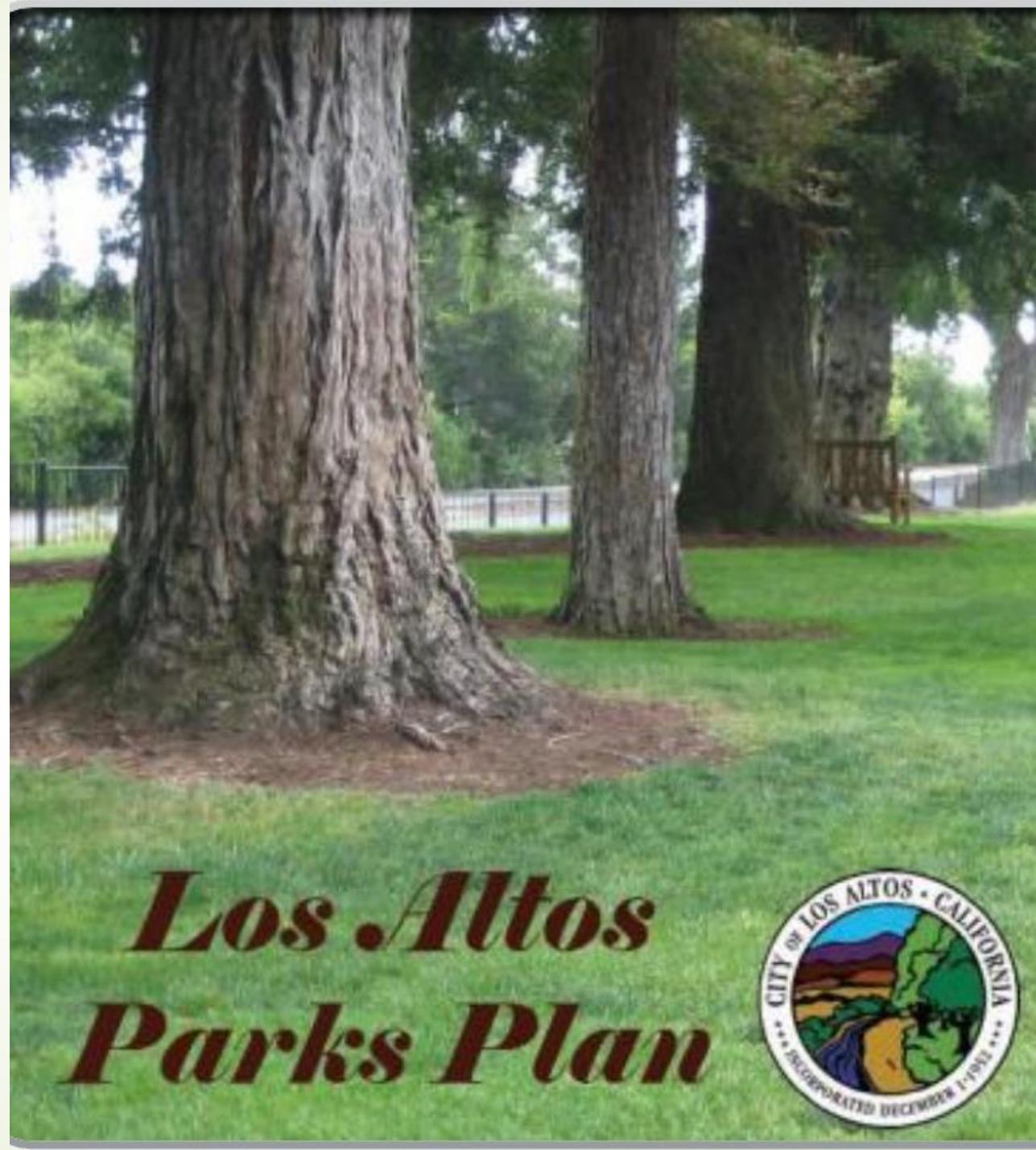
Dedicated



Off-Leash Hours Program

Shared with Existing Venue

- Adopted by City Council on May 8, 2012
- Includes aspiration to identify a location for a fenced-in dog park
- City currently maintains 45 acres of park land





Survey

Solicited input January 29, 2018 through March 8, 2018 via City website

- ▶ 1,127 viewings
- ▶ 868 responses
- ▶ 78% were in support of a fenced-in dog park

Dog Park Criteria



Sufficient room for off-leash activities for dogs of all sizes (at least one-half acre)



Sufficient parking



Sufficient buffer between park and surrounding residential



Access to water



Dog Park Elements

4' to 6' fence
surrounding
area

Adequate
drainage

Nearby
parking

Clear,
well-placed
signage

Shade and
water for dogs
and owners

Seating located
away from
perimeter fence

Covered trash
cans / waste
disposal stations

McKenzie Park

Best possible location due to:

- Adequate distance from residential homes
- Existing amenities such as parking and restrooms
- Access to electrical and water

**Size is the only
Non-conforming factor**







Potential Scope of Work

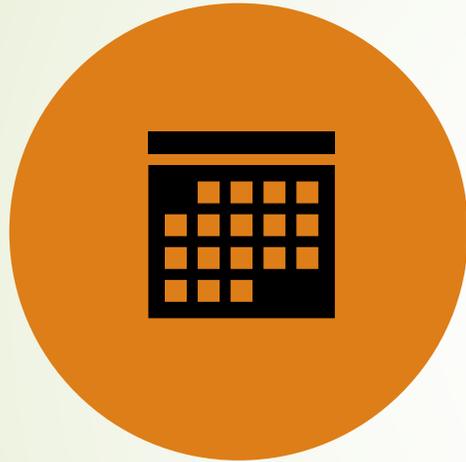
Site Preparation

- Existing berms to be leveled
- Climbing structure relocated
- Concrete and asphalt removed

Features

- 5' fence minimum
- Approximately 7,000 sf ft
- Install drinking fountain
- Minimum of 2 large trees
- Small dog run and dog play equipment
- Drainage upgrades

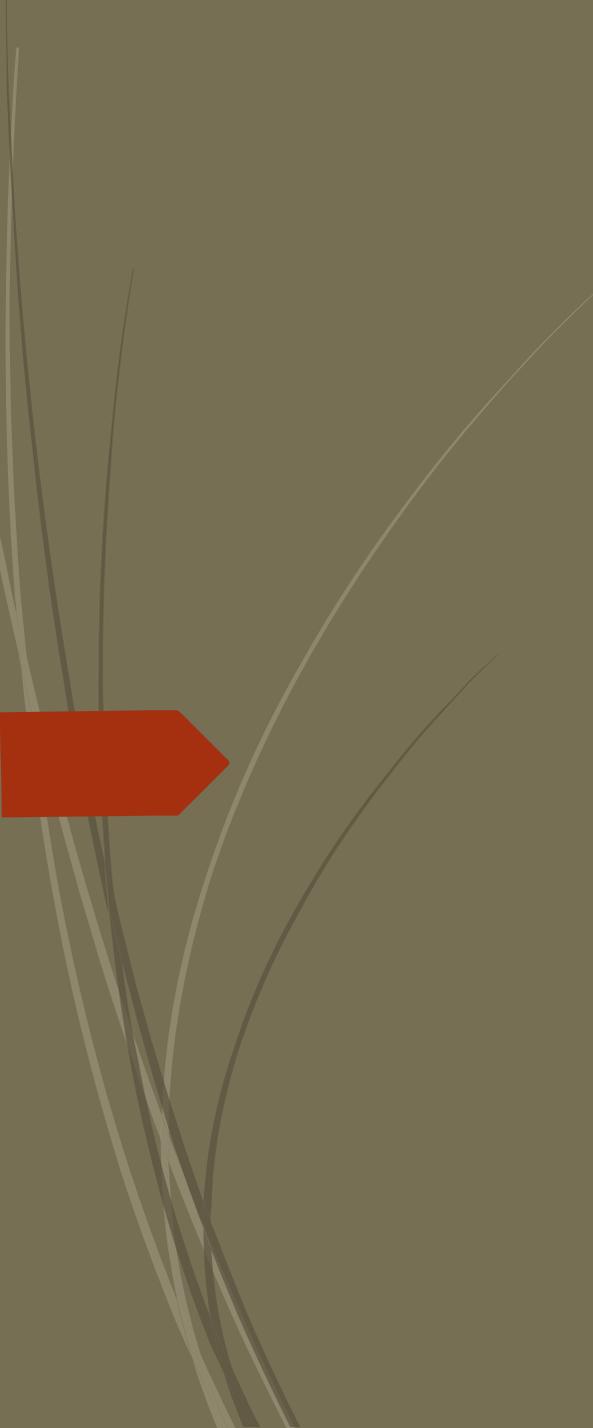
Fenced In Dog Park: Timeline & Funding



FY 2020-21
PARK IMPROVEMENT PLANS



PARK-IN-LIEU FUNDS



Subcommittee Recommendation

Select McKenzie Park as the preferred location for a dedicated, fenced-in dog park (April 10, 2019)



Off-Leash Hours Program



Program Purpose

- ▶ Exercise dogs in larger space other than their private property
- ▶ Create opportunities for dog owners and dogs to engage and socialize
- ▶ Create support system for future dog park initiatives, programs and events

Turf drainage

Proximity to houses

Proximity to playgrounds

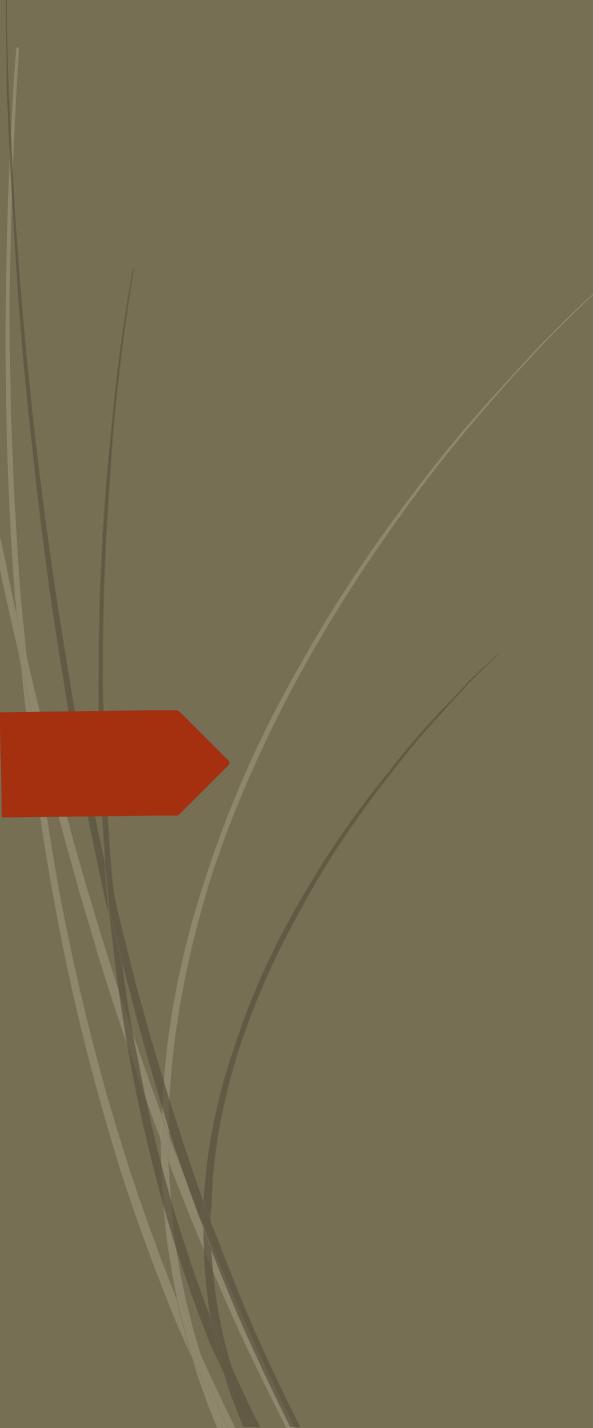
Limited space

Proximity to busy streets and speed limits

Access to restrooms



Los Altos
Parks'
Obstacles

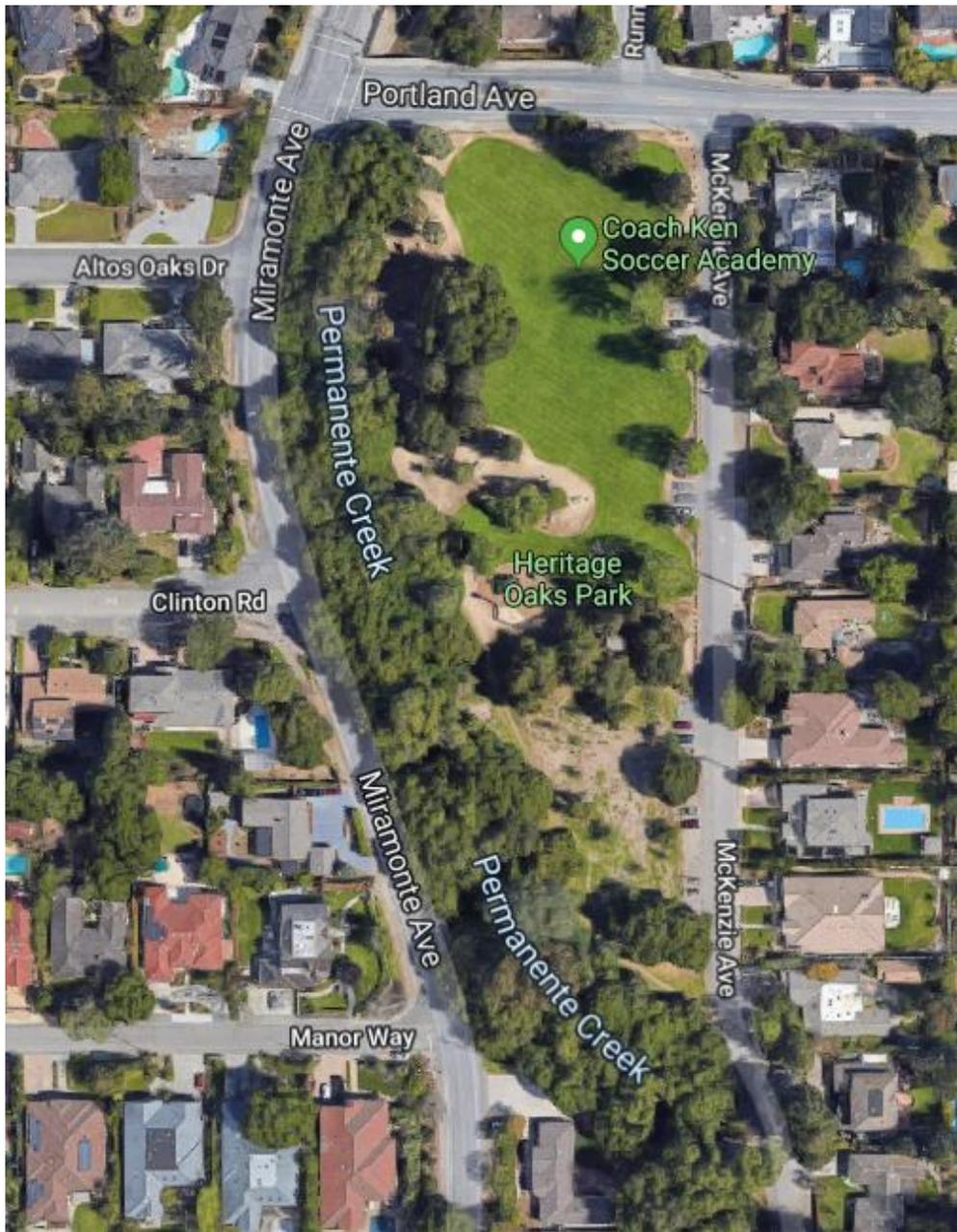


Staff Recommended Locations

Heritage Oaks Park

- Large turf area
- Popular place for dogs and owners
- Distance from major streets
- Access to restrooms
- Geographic location in South/Central Los Altos

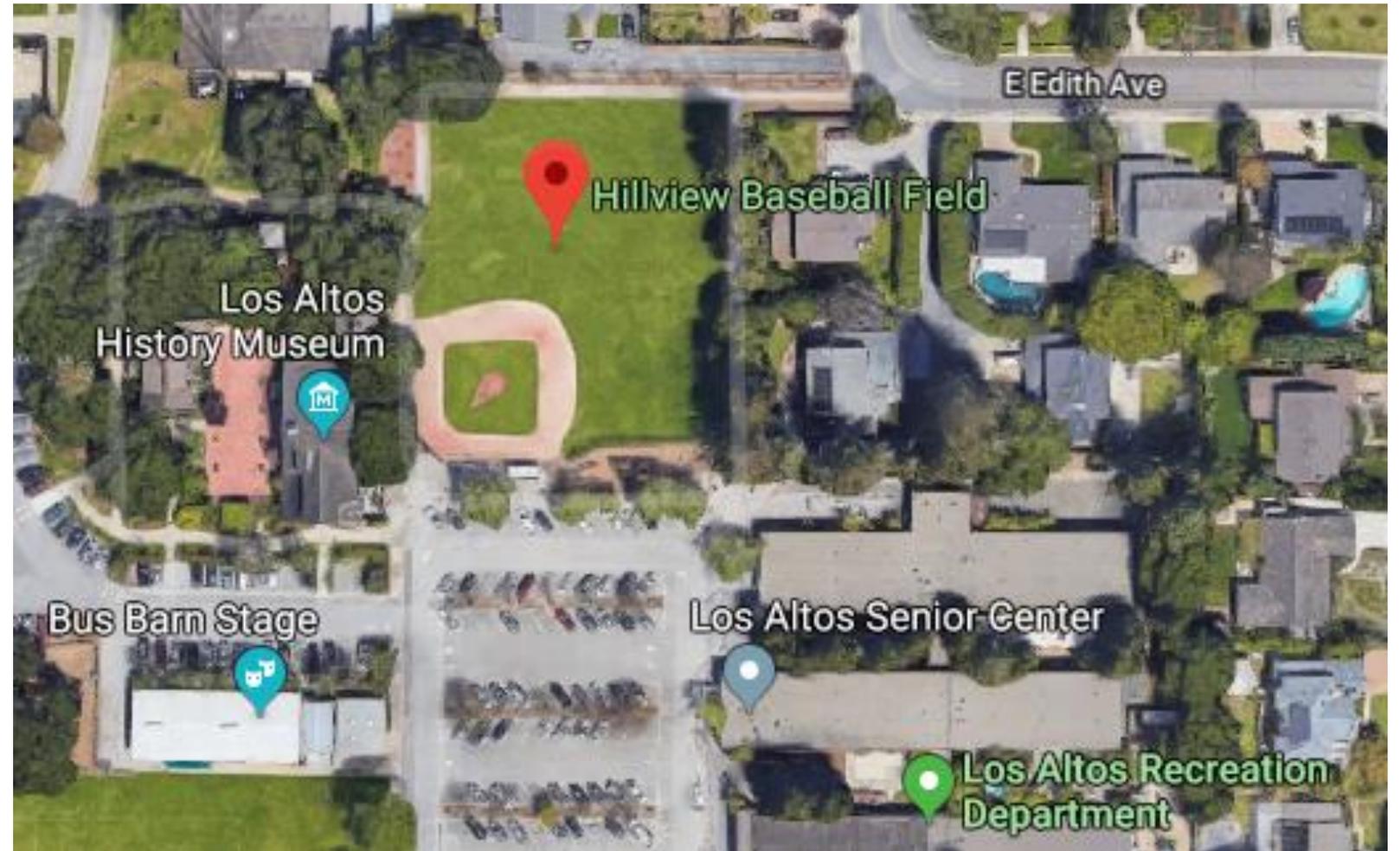




Hillview Baseball Field

- ▶ Semi-enclosed
- ▶ Currently used for dog obedience classes
- ▶ Located in North Los Altos
- ▶ Distance from traffic





Hours of Operation

Heritage Oaks Park

Monday – Friday 6:30am – 9am
Saturday – Sunday 7am – 8:30am

Hillview Baseball Field

Monday – Sunday 6am – 9am & 6pm – sunset
(July – Sept)
Monday – Friday 7am – 9am & 4pm – sunset
(Oct – Feb)

Off-Leash Hours Program Cost

Sample for 12 month program

Signs & Installation (7 – 18" x 24")	\$1,350
Dog Bag Dispenser (7)	\$2,450
Dispenser Maintenance (1 roll/station/month)	<u>\$3,300</u>
Total	\$7,100

Available in existing Park Maintenance Operating Budget



Violation Enforcement

Animal Control via City of Palo Alto (primary) & City of Los Altos Police Department (secondary)

- ▶ Response times will vary depending on availability and proximity
- ▶ 2 – 3 Animal Control Officers during regular work hours (8am – 5pm)
- ▶ On-call hours from 5pm – 8am for emergency response only
- ▶ Change in City Ordinance

Potential Program Issues

Interactions between dogs and park users or other dog owners

Dogs running offsite into street

Turf wear

Excessive and disturbing barking in early morning



Evaluation of Program

- Feedback from residents and users
- Review of incidents reported to Animal Control and Los Altos PD
- Analysis of actual cost vs. expected cost
- Legal issues
- Field conditions
- Attendance and usage

For Commission Consideration

Identify Heritage Oaks Park and
Hillview Park Baseball Field as
preferred locations for
Off-Leash Hours Program



Timeline





City Council Direction

1

Staff to work with PARC to fully develop pilot program proposal with implementation plan

- Include 1 or 2 parks
- Public noticing plan
- Educational signage

2

Explore and develop a recommendation for a designated, fenced-in dog park

3

Return to Council for review before implementation





Supporting Documents

Summary of Dog Park Survey

May 9, 2018 Subcommittee Report

February 12, 2019 City Council Report & Subcommittee Report

Hillview Off-Leash Rules

Heritage Oaks Off-Leash Rules

City of Los Altos Municipal Code 5.08.010



Questions & Discussion